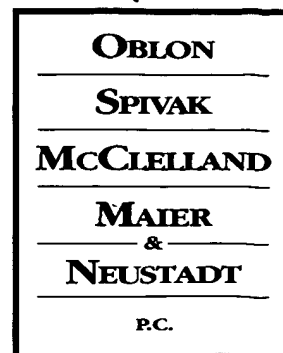




Docket No.: 217028US3

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ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

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RE: Application Serial No.: 10/004,892

Applicants: Michiaki MATSUSHITA, et al.

Filing Date: December 7, 2001

For: COATING AND DEVELOPING APPARATUS AND
PATTERN FORMING METHOD

Group Art Unit: 1756

Examiner: D. CHACKO DAVIS

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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IN RE APPLICATION OF: : EXAMINER: D. CHACKO DAVIS

Michiaki MATSUSHITA et al

SERIAL NO.: 10/004,892 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1756

FILED: December 7, 2001 :

FOR: COATING AND DEVELOPING...

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated September 25, 2003, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Invention I and Claims 1 - 17 of the elected invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement for the following reason.

MPEP § 803 states:

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The Claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Therefore, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a serious burden on the Examiner.

Accordingly, an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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